

Testimony of
Kate Field
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Before the Education Committee
HB 6882 An Act Concerning Mandate Relief
March 15, 2023

Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Representative McCarty, Senator Berthel, and distinguished members of the Education Committee, my name is Kate Field, and I am the Teacher Development Specialist at the Connecticut Education Association. CEA helps active and retired teachers across the state advocate for students, teachers, and public schools. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in partial support of HB 6882, “An Act Concerning Mandate Relief.”

HB 6882 would create an Education Mandates Review Task Force that would review education laws and make recommendations to reduce obsolete and duplicative mandates that are overly burdensome to school districts. CEA supports the creation of the task force and appreciates being named to it; the expertise and experiences of educators are critical to informing this process. Reducing the number of educational mandates would allow districts to focus their resources and attention on the things that matter most to their students and families.

While CEA supports much of HB 6882, the bill does not include the recommendations made by the Professional Development Requirements Working Group, created last year by PA 22-116. This collaborative workgroup, comprised of major education stakeholders, made several recommendations in its report to reduce the number of professional development requirements required by state statute. For your convenience, I’ve submitted a copy of the Working Group’s Report along with my testimony. Including these recommendations in HB6882 would reduce many of the professional development mandates on districts, save districts millions of dollars, and enable educators to focus their professional development on topics that will best enhance student learning and social-emotional well-being.

To summarize, CEA supports HB 6882 but urges the committee to incorporate the recommendations made by the Professional Development Requirements Working Group.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of my testimony.